

## Message Text

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TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON NUNN-BARTLETT PRESS RELEASE

REFS: A. USNATO 6217 DTG 131130 Z NOV 76 (NOTAL);  
B. USNATO 6218 DTG 131200Z NOV 76; C. STATE 280069  
DTG 131903Z NOV 76

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE WHICH ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON IN  
RESPONDING TO QUERIES ON THE NUNN-BARTLETT PRESS RELEASE  
(REFTEL A).

2. BEGIN GUIDANCE:

IN THE ANNUAL DEFENSE REPORTS TO CONGRESS, AND ALSO IN  
INTERNAL GUIDANCE ISSUED EACH YEAR  
TO THE MILITARY SERVICES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES,  
WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ADDRESS THE SPECTRUM OF POSSIBLE  
AGGRESSION WHICH COULD BE LAUNCHED BY THE WARSAW PACT,  
INCLUDING AGGRESSION FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF WARNING OR  
MOBILIZATION, AND A SURPRISE ATTACK.

TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN ANY CONFLICT -- WITH  
OR WITHOUT WARNING -- A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT STEPS HAVE  
BEEN TAKEN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO INCREASE THE

AMOUNT OF US COMBAT POWER IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN  
EUROPE AND TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. WE HAVE ADDED  
TWO COMBAT BRIGADES TO OUR DEPLOYED FORCES IN EUROPE.  
PART OF THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES WILL BE STATIONED IN  
THE NORTHERN PART OF GERMANY. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION  
LEVELS ARE BEING INCREASED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE HIGH  
EQUIPMENT LOSSES THAT COULD BE EXPECTED IN AN INTENSE  
CONFLICT AND TO EASE THE PROBLEM OF GETTING SUPPLIES TO  
EUROPE DURING A CONFLICT. WE HAVE ALSO INCREASED THE  
NUMBER OF ACTIVE ARMY DIVISIONS, BECAUSE THESE ACTIVE  
FORCES WOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE THAN RESERVE  
COMPONENTS FOR DEPLOYMENT TO EUROPE. TO TRANSPORT THEM  
TO EUROPE WE ARE TESTING A MODIFICATION OF THE C-141  
WHICH WOULD INCREASE ITS PAYLOAD AT CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS  
COMPARED TO PURCHASING NEW AIRCRAFT. GREATER EMPHASIS  
IS BEING PLACED ON STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT AND  
DOCTRINE, THE INTEROPERABILITY OF US AND ALLIED FORCES,  
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AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOST NATION SUPPORT OF OUR FORCES.  
LTG HOLLINGSWORTH HAS ALSO  
EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO STANDARDIZE EQUIP-  
MENT. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IN THIS, SO MUCH SO, THAT THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE COMMITTEE WHICH REVIEWS  
WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, DIRECTED  
THAT THE ARMY LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN  
IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS NEW TANK WHICH WILL INCREASE ITS

EFFECTIVENESS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ACHIEVE GREATER  
TANK STANDARDIZATION BETWEEN THE US AND OUR ALLIES.  
STANDARDIZATION WASN'T THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN THIS DECISION,  
BUT IT WAS CERTAINLY AN IMPORTANT ONE. THESE ARE JUST A  
FEW OF THE STEPS WE HAVE BEEN TAKING.

IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL  
TO BEAR IN MIND THAT NATO'S STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE,  
TO WHICH THE US AND THE OTHER ALLIES SUBSCRIBE, CONTAINS  
A TRIAD OF MUTUALLY REINFORCING ELEMENTS -- CONVENTIONAL  
FORCES, THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES AND STRATEGIC FORCES.  
BECAUSE OF THIS STRATEGY, THE POTENTIAL ADVERSARY CANNOT  
BE CONFIDENT OF THE OUTCOME OF HIS AGGRESSION. HE MUST  
REMAIN UNCERTAIN BECAUSE OF OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND ACROSS  
A BROAD SPECTRUM, AND UNABLE TO PREDICT HOW, WHERE OR AT  
WHAT LEVEL WE WOULD RESPOND. IT IS THIS UNCERTAINTY  
THAT FORMS A BASIC ELEMENT OF OUR DETERRENCE. END  
GUIDANCE.

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